

Transportation Commission

January 25, 2012

Item 4F

Discussion

Safe Routes to School Draft Project Submittal – Grand Street at Wood Middle School

Background

Caltrans is currently soliciting Cycle 10 applications for the State-legislated Safe Routes to School (SR2S) grant program for the FY11-12 grant cycle. The application submittal deadline is Friday, March 30, 2012. There is \$45 million available, and a ten percent local match is required. Local jurisdictions may request a maximum amount of \$450,000 from Caltrans for a total project cost of \$500,000. Up to ten percent of the construction cost can fund an education/encouragement/enforcement element.

Discussion

During the past few years, Public Works Department staff has been working with the Alameda Unified School District (AUSD) to increase the number of students walking or biking to school. Projects have been successfully implemented for the east side of the main island such as the Farnside Blvd. bikeway project. As part of this on-going program, staff has studied potential pedestrian and bicycling improvements for Lum Elementary and Wood Middle schools. Staff submitted previous SR2S grant applications for the mid-block crossing on Grand Street at Wood Middle School in 2009 and in 2010. Based on feedback from Caltrans staff, AUSD staff and engineering analyses, Public Works staff has revised the recommended pedestrian treatment at the intersection as shown in the preliminary draft project concept (Exhibit 1).

The preliminary project concept includes a pedestrian refuge island, median striping, enhanced crosswalk, curb bulb-outs, graffiti resistant fencing on the adjacent public walkway, ADA improvements, bike lane restriping, reduced Wood School driveway width, bus stop benches or shelters, a shade tree, updated signage and an enhanced park walkway. Staff will continue to refine the preliminary project concept based on discussions with Wood Middle School and Lum Elementary School representatives and affiliates, residents adjacent to the mid-block crossing, AC Transit staff and Recreation and Park Department staff. Staff will bring a revised project concept to the Transportation Commission for further review before submittal in late March 2012.

Budget Considerations/Fiscal Impact

The estimated total cost for the SR2S project is still being determined, and will depend on the final concept. This project will be 90 percent funded by the State SR2S grant monies. A ten percent local match will be required. Potential sources of funds for the local match include the Transportation Development Act Bicycle/Pedestrian funds or Measure B Bike/Pedestrian monies. This project will not impact the General Fund.

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the TC members review the Safe Routes to School Draft Project Submittal – Grand Street at Wood Middle School.

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Exhibit 1: Preliminary Draft Project Concept of the Mid-Block Crossing on Grand Street at Wood Middle School